

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 051400Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3601

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MANAGUA 0843

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AFSP, NU

SUBJECT: MEETING OF COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM TASK FORCE,
FEBRUARY 28, 1974

1. THE TASK FORCE REVIEWED PROGRESS ON THE CAP. IT WAS NOTED THAT A DRAFT LIST OF SUGGESTED REFERENCE BOOKS FOR THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT. USING THIS LIST, THE COMMERCIAL SECTION HAD MADE UP AND SUBMITTED TO GSO A REQUISITION FOR 10 REFERENCE WORKS WITH A VALUE EXCEEDING \$300. THE NEW BOOKSHELVES FOR THE LIBRARY ARE ABOUT 50 PERCENT DONE AND COMPLETION IS EXPECTED IN MARCH.

2. 1973 STATISTICAL DATA REQUIRED FOR THE INDUSTRY PROFILE OF FOOD PROCESSING IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. SINCE DETAILED TRADE DATA WERE NOT PUBLISHED FOR 1972, 1971 DATA ARE THE LATEST AVAILABLE. THEREFORE IT DOES NOT SEEM USEFUL TO PROCEED WITH THE REPORT UNTIL 1973 DATA ARE AVAILABLE, HOPEFULLY IN MARCH.

3. GON HAS INFORMALLY INDICATED INTEREST IN TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTIES ON BUSES, BUT SO FAR HAS TAKEN NO ACTION. NOTING THE HIGH DEMAND FOR BUSES IN THE U.S., THE TASK FORCE QUESTIONED THE ABILITY OF U.S. PRODUCERS TO FILL
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NICARAGUAN ORDERS IN EVENT LARGE DEMAND WERE GENERATED HERE.

EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEF WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT OF U.S. SUPPLY SITUATION FOR BUSES, IF POSSIBLE. COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND ASSISTANT WILL BEGIN INTERVIEWING VEHICLE DISTRIBUTORS AND BUS COMPANY OWNERS DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN MARCH.

4. DURING A VISIT TO MANAGUA ON FEBRUARY 27, MR. CAICEDO OF THE USIS REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER IN MEXICO DISCUSSED WITH USIS AND THE ECON/COMM SECTION POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER (CNL) AND USE OF THE REPRODUCTION FACILITIES OF RSC/MEXICO. HE POINTED OUT THAT RSC COULD REPRODUCE THE CNL AT LOW COST BUT THAT IT WOULD NEED A LARGER VOLUME THAN ANY ONE OF THE CA EMBASSIES WOULD GENERATE. IT WAS NOTED THAT 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF THE CONTENTS OF THE VARIOUS POSTS' CNL'S IS IDENTICAL SO THAT PERHAPS THE 5 POSTS COULD COMBINE THEM. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES OF COORDINATION, IT WAS DECIDED TO BEGIN BY EXPLORING WITH SAN JOSE THE POSSIBILITIES OF COMBINING OUR NEWSLETTERS.

5. A TRADE MISSION FROM GEORGIA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AND SATISFACTION WITH ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COMMERCIAL SECTION. THEY WERE KEPT BUSY WITH APPOINTMENTS DURING THEIR TWO DAY STAY (FEBRUARY 18-19), HOSTED A COCKTAIL FOR ABOUT 100, WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY LUNCHEON, RECEIVED A BRIEFING FROM THE COMMERCIAL OFFICER ON THE NICARAGUAN ECONOMY AND MET FOR AN HOUR WITH THE AMBASSADOR.
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